information about any such invitations to private doctors. In so far as Government doctors are concerned, no such invitation to aprticipate in any meeting or seminar to discuss the Bhopal Gas Tragedy was received.

(b) Does not arise.

Central Board for the Ichampally Project in Andhra Pradesh

243. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government have urged the Central Government for using their good offices in convening a meeting of the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra for the approval of the constitution of the Central Board for the Ichampally Project in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, what action the Central Government have taken in the matter;

(c) whether the clearance from the Central Water Commission is pending in respect of the execution of the Project; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken to expedite the clearance?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir. The Andhra Pradesh Government had requested the Centre to use its good offices for convening of an inter-State meeting for approval of the constitution of a Control Board for the champally Project.

(b) The Central Government took up the matter with the Governments of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh to expedite the formulation of their Joint Control Board.

(c) No, Sir. The Project Report on Ichampally Project has not yet been submitted to the Central Water Commission.

(d) Does not arise.

Madras-Singapore shipping services

244. SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to resume the Singapore-Madras shipping service;

(b) if so, by when the service is likely to be resumed; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Efforts are on to locate a suitable ship for operation on this route.

(c) Does not arise.

Number of vacant posts in J.N. Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research, Pondicherry

245. SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacant posts in the faculties of JIPMER, Pondicherry as on date;

(b) whether the MCI has given any deadline to the JIPMER, in this regard;

(c) by when the Government hope to fill them up; and

(d) whether the MCI has proposed to derecognise the Institute if the posts are not filled up in time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Twenty-six

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The recruitment action for filling these posts through UPSC/DPC is at different stages.

(d) No such communication has been received from the Medical Council of India.